

SECRET [REDACTED]

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1700, 14 Jun 79

SOVIET ARMS TALKS

The decreasing demand on Soviet arms & subsequent trend of declining sales does not imply that these countries will completely sever any arms trade w/the Soviets.

In fact, they would like to maintain & preserve ties for a variety of reasons such as:

- Maintaining their current inventory
- Requiring spare parts on previously bought systems
- Inability of Western countries to respond to their new arms agreements quickly

e.g. India's recent order of 150 Jaguars apparently cannot be fulfilled until 1980-'81, so that India is simultaneously pursuing buying MIG-23s, although apparently only 8 in number - to fill the "gap" until its British order can be met.

- Preservation of political-military ties with the USSR

Thus the recent Iraq delegation may have discussed agreements but these agreements were far less than what previous sales had amounted to

- est. value of new agreement w/Sov. could be up to \$1B
- est. value of agreements w/West in last 2 yrs. is \$4.4B
- and another \$1.5B deal w/France for F-1 Mirage fighter is reportedly pending

The delaying tactics [REDACTED] by the USSR

[REDACTED] apparently is frequently used

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- as a political weapon against arms clients
- but only annoying tactic
- because arms clients usually get what they want
- particularly as of late w/Sov. realization of decreasing LDC demand

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